

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

PROBLEMS OF LIFE AND MIND. By GEORGE HENRY LEWES. Third Series. THE STUDY OF PSYCHOLOGY. 12mo, pp. 188. Houghton, Osgood, & Company.

The present volume is devoted to the First Problem of the "Study of Psychology," and is published separately in accordance with the wish of the author, with no alterations from the original manuscript but such as it is deemed certain would have met with his sanction. In discussing the subject, the work is divided into three parts, showing: 1. What it is we study in Psychology; 2. Why we study it; and 3. How we ought to study it. The development of the science, Mr. Lewes remarks, has been along three lines, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Condillac, and James Mill made invaluable contributions to the introspective analysis of the phenomena in their mental aspect. Cabanis, Gall, and recent physiologists have given them attention to the physical aspect, revealing many of the biological conditions. Lotze, Wundt, Bain, Spencer, and Taine have combined these efforts of subjective and objective research, and have given the science a new impulse by their constant recognition of the twofold aspect of the phenomena.

Still, Mr. Lewes maintains, that as yet the constitution of the science of psychology has not been effected. In an organized science the discoveries of to-day enlarge but do not overturn the conceptions of yesterday. Each worker brings his labors as a contribution to the common fund, not as an anarchical displacement of the labors of his predecessors. There is system, but no system. Schools and professors no longer give their names as authorities in place of reasons. Astronomy, for example, is in constant progress, but the progress is that of evolution, not revolution. The doctrines taught are not taught as Copernican, or Newtonian, but as astronomical. The same may be said of Physics and Chemistry, and even of Biology, but it cannot be said of Psychology. We still hear of the Institutional Psychology and the Sensational School. We are referred to the psychology of Kant or Hegel, of Locke or Spencer, as if the doctrines were still individual appreciations of facts, on the guarantee of each author's renown.

But Psychology cannot be constructed by any exclusive method. Neither introspective analysis alone, nor objective observation alone, nor even the union of the two, if confined to the investigation of the individual mind and individual organism is sufficient. Psychology investigates the human mind, not the thoughts and feelings of an individual. It has to consider it as the product of the human organism, not only in relation to the cosmos, but also in relation to society. According to these premises, Mr. Lewes would define Psychology as the analysis and classification of the sentient functions and faculties, revealed to observation and induction, completed by the reduction of them to their conditions of existence, biological and sociological. The place of physiology is that of the organic conditions of production; the place of psychology being that of the products. Physiology deals directly with the objective aspect of sentient facts and their relation to the visible organism; psychology with the same facts in their subjective aspect as states of feeling, not as organic changes. The physiologist traces the sequence of stimulation through sensory nerve, centre, motor nerve, and muscle. He is directly concerned with the mechanism, though indirectly occupied with changes of feeling. Were it not for the implied identity of molecular and sentient changes, the sequences would have no more significance for him than similar sequences in a machine. The psychologist has the same events before him, but regards them from a different standpoint. He is concerned with the feelings as such, not with the products, not with the conditions of production. He must indeed assume the coexistence of organic change, because the feelings are those of a living organism, but so long as he is attracted by the subjective aspect of the phenomena, he need only tacitly assume the coexistence of the objective.

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